(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to save these companies from closure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The operations of public sector undertakings viz. Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited and National Aluminium Company Limited were adversely affected during 1993-94 on account of fall in the international market (London Metal Exchange) prices of copper, zinc, lead and aluminium and to some extent due to lowering of customs duty on import of these metals. As the cost of production of copper from low grade indigenous ores is much higher than international prices of copper, Hindustan Copper had to sell its production of copper at competitive prices. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. had to curtail production of load due to lower demand and depressed international prices. Provisional results indicate that Hindustan Copper Ltd. is likely to incur a loss of Rs. 76.37 crores during 1993-94 while Hindustan Zinc is likely to incur a loss of Rs. 10.00 crores in 1993-94. The annual accounts of these companies are, however, yet to be finalised.

Though the fall in LME prices and import liberalisation adversely affected their profitability, NALCO, and BALCO would earn profits by increasing sales in the domestic market.

(c) The budget proposals of Government for 1994-95 include proposal for rationalisation of import duty structure, levy of countervailing duties, reduction on customs duty on capital imports etc. on non-ferrous metals. The PSUs are also revamping their operations and undertaking expansion of capacities, phasing out of uneconomic units, innovative marketing strategy to maximise sales, and capital restructuring besides, efficient management of physical and financial resources, etc.

Assistance for Latur Earthquake Victims

*376 SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount received so far by the different committees for relief and rehabilitation in connection with the Latur earthquake;

(b) the details of the amount received from abroad including assistance by international financial agencies for the same; and

(c) the details of the different relief and rehabilitation activities already undertaken and the projects and programmes being implemented with details of the expenditure incurred for each work ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ground Water Level in Madhya Pradesh

*377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh had forwarded a scheme to the Central Government pointing out that ground water level is gradually going down in some parts of Madhya Pradesh because of less rainfall and over exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had also urged the Central Government to get it examined in detail from experts to identify measures which could quickly recharge the ground-water reserves;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal made by Madhya Pradesh Government;

(d) whether the Central Government are also considering ground water recharging investigation by providing special Central assistance to the States; and

(e) if so, how much assistance has been given to Madhya Pradesh for the years 1989-90, 90-91, 91-92, 92-93 and 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Madhya Pradesh had requested the regional office of the Central Ground Water Board at Bhopal to examine feasibility for artificial recharge in 19 areas of the State where ground water level is gradually going down.

(c) Board's comments in regard to feasibility of artificial recharge in the concerned areas have been furnished to the State Government.

(d) The Central Ground Water Board have formulated a scheme for providing assistance to the States for recharging ground water in critical blocks having over exploitation of ground water in the States which is still under examination.

(e) Does not arise.

Delhi School of Economics MOU with Italian Institute for Foreign Trade

*378. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi School of Economics has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade (ICF).